

REMARKS

Claims 1, 13, 22, 26 and 30 have been amended to clarify that the annotations that are removed comprise text.

In ¶ 1 of the Office Action, the disclosure was objected to because of various informalities. In response to this objection, the specification has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggested corrections.

In ¶ 3 of the Office Action, claims 1, 13 and 30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ikeshoji et al. (US 5,761,339). The Applicants traverse this ground of rejection for the following reasons.

Each of claims 1, 13 and 30 have been amended to recite that the annotations are textual. This is supported by the specification at ¶ [0002], which states that "annotations are typically burnt in by overlaying an arbitrary intensity value of text on the image." Amended claims 1, 13 and 30 now require the step of "removing one or more textual annotations" from an annotated image. This limitation clearly distinguishes over the Ikeshoji patent, which teaches removing the background from an image (see box 120 in Figure 1 of Ikeshoji), not removing textual annotations from an image. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 13 and 30 are not anticipated by Ikeshoji.

In ¶ 5 of the Office Action, claims 2-12, 14-21, 31 and 32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikeshoji in view of MacLeod et al. (US

5,778,092), and further in view of Bloomberg (US 5,065,437). The Applicants traverse this ground of rejection for at least the same reasons, set forth above, why claims 1, 13 and 30 are not anticipated by Ikeshoji.

In ¶ 6 of the Office Action, claims 22-29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikeshoji in view of MacLeod and Bloomberg, and further in view of Gonzales et al. The Applicants traverse this ground of rejection for the following reasons.

Neither claim 22 nor claim 26 recites any of the limitations that appear in claims 2-12, 14-21, 31 and 32 (rejected in further view of MacLeod and Bloomberg), so that MacLeod and Bloomberg appear to have no relevance to claims 22 and 26. Therefore, it appears that the Examiner intended to reject claims 22 and 26 as being obvious over Ikeshoji in view of Gonzales only.

Each of claims 22 and 26 has been amended to recite the step of "removing one or more textual annotations from the brightness component annotated image to derive a . . . modified image" and then processing that modified image. As explained above, Ikeshoji teaches removing the background from an image and then processing the background, not removing a textual annotation from an image and then processing the image without annotation. Gonzales also fails to disclose or suggest removing a textual annotation from an image and then processing the image. Accordingly, the Applicants submit that neither claim 22

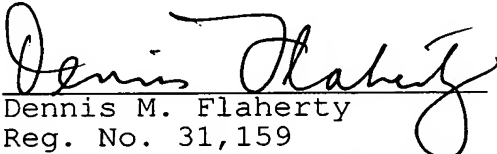
nor claim 26 is obvious over Ikeshoji in view of Gonzales. The MacLeod and Bloomberg references also fail to disclose or suggest removing a textual annotation from an image and then processing the image without textual annotation.

Claims 23-25 and 27-29 are believed to be patentable for the same reasons, set forth above, that claims 2-12, 14-21, 31 and 32 are patentable.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application and allowance of claims 1-32 are hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

  
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